



News from Congressman **Tom Lantos**

12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco

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LANTOS TAKES AIM AT REPUBLICAN SPECIAL INTEREST TAX BREAKS IN ARMED FORCES BILL

Opposes GOP Special Interest Profiteering
Supports Clean Bill to Help U.S. Servicemen and -Women

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) leveled harsh criticism at the U.S. House of Representatives Republican leadership for attaching special interest tax benefits and other legislative riders to the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act (H.R. 878). He expressed strong support for the version approved recently by the Senate Finance Committee (S. 351), which provides tax relief to American men and women in uniform, not special interests. After intense Democratic opposition, the House Republican leadership today was forced to withdraw the bill from consideration for the time being and adjourn early.

"The House Republican's cynical and opportunistic attempt to hijack the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act and use it to advance their special interest agenda is an outrage. Congress should provide immediate tax relief to Americans serving in our armed forces, and their families - not to Republican corporate campaign contributors. While wrapping themselves in the flag, the House Republican leadership is slipping lucrative tax breaks to their wealthy supporters under the table. This is special interest profiteering of the most corrupt sort," Congressman Lantos said.

Among the many extraneous amendments to the bill that the House Republican leadership has approved is a repeal of the excise tax on fishing tackle boxes for the Plano plastic molding company in Illinois; cuts to bow and arrow taxes; tax breaks for the Weyerhaeuser forest products company; and tax relief for wealthy foreigners who place bets from outside the United States on U.S. horse races. Moreover, the House Republican bill protects tax loopholes for individuals that renounce their U.S. citizenship.

"The Republican bill is an insult to those serving our country, and a windfall to those serving their corporate and campaign special interests. Tax cuts for fishing tackle boxes, bows and arrows, and horse betting by foreigners have no place in legislation designed to ease the burden our military men serving our country. Such Republican special interest profiteering must be stopped," Congressman Lantos said.

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